

39. An equilibrium dialysis apparatus comprising:

a body, comprising a top surface having a first plane and a bottom surface having a second plane, in which body is contained at least one testing well, each of which well is separated into a first side and a second side, by means for vertically separating the well, such that both of said sides of each well are fully open and accessible from the top surface of the body and closed on said bottom surface, wherein said body comprises ninety-six wells arranged in an 8x12 array.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. An equilibrium dialysis apparatus comprising:

a body, comprising a top surface having a first plane and a bottom surface having a second plane, in which body is contained at least one testing well, each of which well is separated into a first side and a second side, by means for vertically separating the well, such that both of said sides of each well are fully open and accessible from the top surface of the body and closed on said bottom surface, wherein said body of the device comprises the material polytetrafluoroethylene.

Remarks

With respect to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, Applicants respectfully traverse. This rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment of claim 1 herewith to explicitly indicate that the phrase "the top of the body" refers to the top surface of the body.

With respect to the objection to claim 2 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse. This is the same rejection that was made in the previous office action, and Applicants have addressed this in their prior response by amending claim 2 to use the term --comprises-- instead of "include". As such, Applicants fail to see how claim 2 is a duplicate of claim 1. Further explanation is requested.